



Acorn Woodpecker. Photo © Brent Russell Paul

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review safety tips on page 5. Take warm clothes, a map, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

You are on your own in the woods—enjoy them safely.

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM

The best place to learn about sequoias before you explore.

♿BIG TREES TRAIL

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Sherman Tree Trail** - Has a large parking lot that closes by mid-November. It runs 1/2 mile down to the tree and has some stairs. It is an uphill walk back to your car. Drive two miles (3.2 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Highway for those with *disabled* placards only) to Wolverton Road. Turn right, then follow signs.
- ♿ • **Wheelchair accessible trail from Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree** has parking for those with *disabled* placards only. If you don't have a placard but can't make the walk down the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit.

When the upper lot closes for winter, anyone can park here.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

MORO ROCK/ CRESCENT MEADOW

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. See page 5 for road details. This road closes with snowfall. Highlights:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy or snowy.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. There is a by-pass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Museum.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Towering sequoias around a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/ 114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below impressive granite cliffs and a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground. For the 500 foot/152 m elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.



MINERAL KING

Road is open late May through October 31 (weather permitting), the winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. From there, trails lead to the High Sierra and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Fall weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity is available. Starting November 1 at noon, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198). See page 8 for more information.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more different kinds of plants and animals than the conifer forests or highcountry. Watch for ticks and poison oak (see page 5 for safety tips).

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC

AREA: Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here and a very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always use bear boxes to store food from bears. Only keep food and scented items out when they are in use and within arm's reach.

MARBLE FALLS TRAIL: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Take the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: At Buckeye Flat Campground, follow the footpath across from site #26 and the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5-mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.